



*Estamos Unidos*

The United States Embassy  
Managua, Nicaragua

## American Citizen Services Managua Newsletter

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### Greetings and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday season. This newsletter is designed to provide information to U.S. citizens in Nicaragua. We have tried to address some of the more common questions we receive from our fellow citizens. We'd love to hear your feedback and ideas for future newsletters. At the beginning of a new year, it's also a good time to check the expiration dates of your U.S. passports to ensure they haven't expired. We encourage anyone whose passport expires within the next six months to think about making an online appointment to renew it.

Sincerely,

David Beam

### Follow us on the web:



#### EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Deaths, Abductions, Robberies, Arrests, etc. will be attended to promptly. Please call (505) 2252-7104 and ask for the American Citizens Services Unit during Embassy office hours. If the Embassy is closed, please call (505) 2252-7100 and ask to speak with the Embassy duty officer.

The United States Embassy in Managua is located at: Kilómetro 5 1/2 (5.5) Carretera Sur, Managua, Nicaragua. **Main embassy phone:** (505) 2252-7100 **Consular Section:** (505) 2252-7104 **Customer Service:** (505) 2252-7888, **Fax:** (505) 2252-7250 **Email:** [ACS.Managua@state.gov](mailto:ACS.Managua@state.gov) Consular services are available Monday thru Friday except for official US and Nicaraguan holidays. Routine services such as passports and notarial services require an appointment; you can schedule an appointment online: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=MNG&appcode=1>.

## It's Tax Season!



Everyone can  
e-file, and  
everyone can  
e-file  
Individual tax  
returns for  
free. Visit  
[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)  
for more info

### Tax Time is Just Around the Corner

Residing abroad does not exempt U.S. citizens or Legal Permanent Residents from their U.S. tax obligations. While some may not owe any U.S. income tax while they are living abroad, you must still file a return annually with the IRS. This is the case even if you move all of your assets to a foreign country; you may still be taxed on income regardless of where it is earned. For more information please review the IRS's [tax information for residents and U.S. citizens living abroad](#).

The U.S. Embassy Managua does not have a taxpayer assistance specialist on staff and we are not qualified to answer specific questions about tax issues. Persons requiring taxpayer assistance or information should contact the [Internal Revenue Service](#) directly. Please [click here](#) for a list of U.S. tax preparers in Nicaragua. Additional [information for tax payers abroad](#) can be found on our website.



**Department of  
Health and Human  
Services**

### Does Medicare Provide Overseas Coverage?

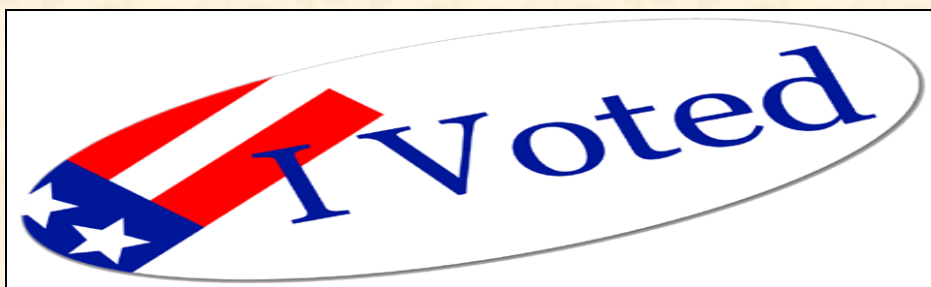
U.S. citizens currently receiving Medicare benefits, or eligible to receive them, should be aware **that in nearly all circumstances** their coverage does not extend outside of the U.S. Specific information on overseas coverage can be found through an official Medicare publication available at:

<http://www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/11037.pdf>

Nicaraguan hospitals and clinics cannot file Medicare claims and medical services provided in Nicaragua are not reimbursable by Medicare. If anyone tells you otherwise, they are not being honest with you. Do not let yourself be accused of Medicare fraud by having claims submitted on your behalf.

You should always protect your personal information. Guard your Medicare and Social Security numbers. Treat them like you would treat your credit cards. Be suspicious of anyone who offers you free medical equipment or services and then requests your personal information. If it's free, they do not need your number! Do not let anyone borrow or pay to use your Medicare ID card or your identity. It's illegal, and it's not worth it!





The US Embassy is not a voting precinct. We simply collect your ballots and send them to the place where you are registered to vote. You must be registered to vote in one of the many voting precincts in the U.S.

## What Can I Do to Ensure that My Vote Is Counted?

Thank you to all those U.S. citizens resident in Nicaragua who participated in the 2012 U.S. General Elections. During this election cycle U.S. Embassy Managua was pleased to support over 2,000 U.S. citizens by providing voting information, assisting in the voter registration process, and returning overseas absentee ballots to the U.S.

However, many people continued to be under the impression that they could come into the embassy on Election Day and cast their ballot. This is not the case. Each state has a different cutoff date for registering, requesting ballots, postmarking ballots, and receiving returned voted ballots. For the next election, please check with the [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) website well before election day and confirm what your state requires you to do in order to cast your vote.

New absentee voting laws went into effect for the 2012 elections. Overseas voters no longer automatically receive ballots based on a previous absentee ballot request. All U.S. citizens outside of the United States who want to vote by absentee ballot in primary and general elections must now complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) **every year** if they wish to vote from abroad.

The Consular Section staff at U.S. Embassy Managua is ready to answer questions about completing your FPCA. Our purpose is to inform and educate you about your voting rights, to ensure you are able to exercise your right to participate in elections for federal offices (President, Vice President, Senator, and Representative), and to assist with voting in state or local elections, if allowed by your state. We pride ourselves in being resources you can count on to help you answer voting questions, but for your vote to count, **you need to be prepared early.**

## LEGAL STATUS—Resident or Tourist?

Make sure your Nicaraguan visa and/or residency is valid. Under Nicaraguan law, Nicaraguan authorities can require foreigners to present documentation that proves you are legally in the country. Illegal presence can lead to deportation and/or a fine of 50 Córdobas for every day you are not in legal status. U.S. citizens are usually granted a 90 day visa upon entry into Nicaragua. For additional information on Nicaraguan visas and Residency please visit the [Nicaraguan Immigration Website](#).

Your inputs and/or suggestions about possible newsletter topics are always welcomed. Please see our contact information on the front page or write to us at [ACS.Managua@state.gov](mailto:ACS.Managua@state.gov)

## What to Do When a U.S. Citizen Dies in Nicaragua?

Notify the Nicaraguan Police. They will transfer the deceased to the nearest morgue and will provide assistance in the process. Contact information for the Nicaraguan National Police can be found on their website, [here](#).

**No Family Present? Call the U.S. Embassy immediately after you call the police!** We will endeavor to locate and inform the next-of-kin. Time is essential in notifying NOK as Nicaraguan law requires disposition of remains (either cremation or burial) within 24 hours. However, in case of the death of foreigners, local practice is to transfer the body to the Nicaraguan Forensic Institute for an autopsy, this gives the family more time to decide on disposition of remains. However, when the death occurs in remote locations, this may not be possible.

The Embassy can also provide information to grieving family members on how to make arrangements for local burial or return of the remains of their loved one to the United States; prepare an official Consular Report of Death based upon the local death certificate and send it to the next-of-kin or legal representative for use in U.S. courts to settle estate matters; and take temporary possession of the deceased's personal effects, if the deceased has no legal representative or family in Nicaragua. Costs for preparing and returning the body to the United States must be paid by next of kin or a legal representative. In cases where the family cannot be located or cannot pay burial costs, the Nicaraguan government will treat the remains according to local practice and regulations. More information on [death](#) cases can be found on our website.

We're on the Web at  
Nicaragua.usembassy.gov

# COPING WITH THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

## How to Register with the US Embassy

The Embassy encourages all U.S. citizens to enroll their trip to Nicaragua or their residency in Nicaragua through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). STEP allows you to enter information so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency. It also allows U.S. citizens residing in Nicaragua to get routine and emergency information from the Embassy. To enroll click [here](#) or type <https://step.state.gov/step>.

You can also download the Smart Travel Program App for your



Smartphone .



Smart  
Traveler  
Enrollment  
Program